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December—2014
Volume 1, Issue 2

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is hard to believe that 2015 is almost upon us! It seems like the school year just started and we were welcoming over 800 seventh and eighth grade students to begin what I knew would be an exciting and wonderfully challenging year. It has been an honor and a pleasure to get to know your children and watch them grow academically and socially as this year has progressed.

I am very proud of the work that Illing staff and students have done so far this school year to reach our goal of providing rigorous, relevant and engaging experiences for all students. A few highlights that demonstrate the commitment and dedication of our staff include:

The seamless integration of Chromebooks into all classrooms at Illing. We have only just begun to realize the potential of these tools to enhance student learning experiences.

A variety of Creativity Grants were awarded to many Illing Middle School teachers by Superintendent Geary that will promote creativity, collaboration and excellence within our school. Illing students will benefit greatly from the following awards.

Makerspace Lab: Jess Loucks received funding to build a Makerspace lab in the library media center that will engage students and provide them with opportunities to build, collaborate and work with technology through hands-on experimentation. Students will share ideas and engage in projects through a variety of activities intended to build student creativity and resilience.

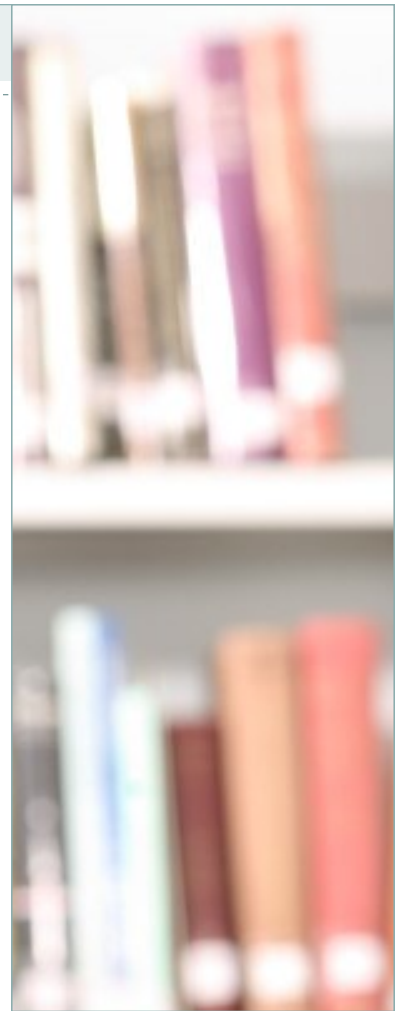
Video Production Lab: Dan Spada received funding to set up a before and after school fully operational news studio in which students will produce investigative reporting pieces in an authentic student run video production lab.

As previously noted, report card grades will no longer be mailed home unless you specifically request that we mail them.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK CONT'D

Bridge Building Challenge and Science Materials: Laura Barbash and the science department received funding that will enable the department to purchase materials that will promote student centered and inquiry-based learning opportunities in the area of science.

Robotics Program: Greg Friedrichs received funding to build an after school robotics program that will allow any interested student the opportunity to use VEX Robotics technology to build robots and compete in state and even national events.

Literacy Grants: David Lee worked with high school teachers Leah Lourie and Lisa Young to develop a middle/high school partnership in which students read a common book written by local author Caragh O'Brien, [The Vault of Dreamers](#). Literacy and numeracy coaches Danielle Maguire, Claudia Millette and Paige Lepage also received funding to run an after school program intended to improve literacy and math skills.

A generous PTA grant was also awarded to teachers who will be working in this after school program. Thank you to our PTA for helping to make this program successful!

Much has been accomplished so far this year, but I am even more excited about the work that is to come. On behalf of the entire Illing Middle School staff, I wish you and your family a wonderful, joyous and safe holiday season.

With warm regards,
Beth Hayes, Interim Principal



14th. Annual

Three Kings' Day

Celebration

Saturday, January 10, 2015

at 6:00 p.m. at
Manchester High School

Pot Luck Dinner
Everyone Participates
Registration
limited to first 100 families

R.S.V.P



Register for Gifts and Dinner with the number of Adults & Children who will be participating

By December 22, 2014

For more information:

860-643-5388

Sponsored by:

The Association of Puerto Rican & Latinos United of Manchester,
Manchester High School Latino Club, Manchester Area Conference of Churches





TEAM CENTRAL

Army Warrior Ethos

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Team Central scientists will begin their study of cells and the human body very soon. With physics behind us, we move on to the musculoskeletal, circulatory, respiratory, and digestive systems. Expect to be asked where your patella is and how to spell sternocleidomastoid!! The biology portion of the year will continue well into the third quarter. Please keep monitoring those planners, and if you still want to sign up for Mrs. Werner's text messages about homework, it is not too late. Send me a note or an email and I will send out the directions. Best wishes for happy holidays and a restful break.

The language arts classes are gearing up to see "A Christmas Carol" at Hartford Stage on December 17. We will be reading a version of the Charles Dickens classic prior to the event. Right now, we are in the middle of our "Poetry and Figurative Language Unit." During the next unit on "Finding the Central Idea," we will be joining up with social studies to teach the memoir *A Long Walk to Water*, a gripping tale about a boy's escape from civil war in South Sudan. Continue to encourage your children to read 20-30 minutes a night at home! Thanks.

Hello again and I hope you are enjoying the holiday season. We are continually building our fundamental geography foundation, which we are going to rely on for the rest of the year. It is now time to fully dive into the countries of the Eastern Hemisphere and examine their physical and cultural characteristics. We are also going to investigate climate, vegetation, land use, and resources. Over the next few weeks, we will be taking an in-depth look at regions of Africa. When we get back from break, we will be picking up the pace so expect your child to have homework Monday through Thursday. Well, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be safe during the holidays and see you next year.

Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is drawing near. Students in Language Arts have moved swiftly like geese flying south into our figurative language unit. They are the squirrels we see dashing through our streets these days, diligent workers storing up information for the long months ahead. The students listen closely as words call out to them, "Look at ME! I'm the perfect choice". They groan and moan as they break old habits that had them writing things, then never looking at them again like bad habits left behind. Instead, they have begun to write, then revise, then revise again, as we all do when the purpose is perfection. Encourage your child to keep their effort high and not hibernate. After all, Santa sees everything.

Hello Team Central Parents/Guardians!

This is Mr. Moore, the math teacher! The year has been going great so far and things are moving along very smoothly. We have been working on our Geometry Unit in which the kids have been learning how we use angle measure, area and volume of 2D and 3D shapes in order to solve real world and mathematical problems. The kids really like the topics in which we've been exploring! Their attitudes and effort is still at the high standards in which we all hold them to!



TEAM PRINCETON

Princeton

The American Revolution has begun in Mrs. Francoeur's American History classes. We are investigating what seemed to be an impossible undertaking. A group of determined patriots will find a way to organize, supply, and train an army prepared to fight the strongest military in the world. The colonial militias proved to be a formidable opponent that the British greatly underestimated. In addition to organizing the military defense of their liberty, unwavering patriots will work to unify the thirteen colonies together under the common goal of independence. The sheer guts, resolve and perseverance of these individuals make us stop and realize the real sacrifices made by our first patriots that made the formation of our country possible.

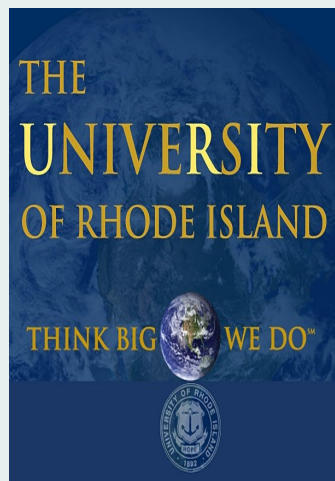
The Algebra class will be finishing up their study of solving systems of equations and move into solving systems of inequalities as well. They also will be exploring different types of functions using the graphing calculators. Connected Math students will continue solving linear equations and will then be moving into a very important unit of studying linear relationships.

Science Students have begun the study of Life in Motion. We're going to investigate speed and velocity, Newton's Three Laws of Motion, and Friction. We are going to connect all of this physics content to a sport, activity or animal of each student's choice. We're also engaging in the Barbash River Bridge Building Challenge in December. We have a full schedule coming up for the next couple of months!

In Language Arts classes, students are exploring the meaning and use of figurative language. We have been analyzing it in poetry and creating it in our writing. It has been fun and interesting to use figures of speech like: **alliteration, allusion, hyperbole, assonance, onomatopoeia, personification, and much more!** Ask your child to explain and give examples of these. You will be pleasantly surprised by what they know. We have also been writing poetry and short memoirs (vignettes) involving family memories and the use of figurative language.

Our present unit will be in the skill of argument. I'm sure you will agree that arguing is something right up our alleys for middle school. However, learning to argue in a scholarly way is a challenge and students will be writing essays and debating on various subjects within parameters and a particular structure. Ask your child what they have been learning about being an effective and scholarly arguer.

*******Please remember to be checking your son or daughter's planner. Assignments are posted regularly on our web page and those Team Princeton Text Alerts are proving to be really helpful. Check it out!! Students should have a comprehensive Social Studies notebook. American history is exciting; ask them about what they are learning. You will be pleased with how much they know!*******



TEAM URI

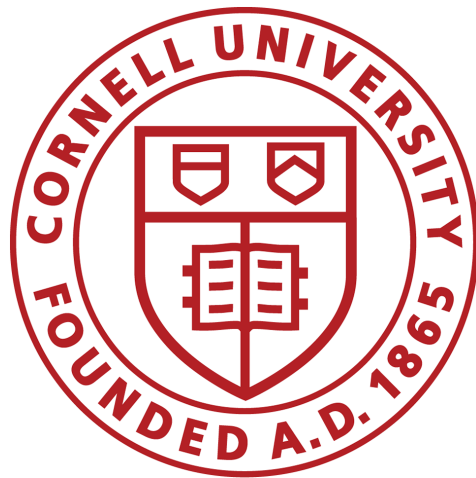
Team URI would like to congratulate all the students who made honor roll first quarter. Great job and keep working hard! We will have a team reward for S.T.A.R.S. before the holiday break. Students must save up their Starbucks in order to participate. The team would like to remind students to continue following the S.T.A.R.S protocol. This includes completing and turning in homework/classwork on time, coming to class on time and prepared, remaining respectful in classes, and keeping a positive attitude. Finally, Mr. E.M. will be holding the annual URI Geography Bee in the coming weeks. Good luck to all those involved!

TEAM CORNELL

Mrs. Gohla's ELA classes have been studying figurative language, imagery and poetry while in Unit 2 of the Common Core. Students have done their first in-class presentation reading aloud a poem of their choice and explaining it's figurative language and imagery. They were nervous, but did a fantastic job! We will be reading Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes. While reading, we will review poetic devices, learn about stereotypes and prejudices, and students will do their own writing to respond to the book.

Students in Ms. Botting's ELA classes are in the midst of reading novels dealing with the theme of being "outcasts" from society. They are also completing a menu of small projects that help them to further understand their books, connect them to life and society, and meet common core curriculum standards all whilst doing so!

Mrs. Brisee's Math classes are working on linear equations. We are graphing and solving equations, and relating them to real world problems. Algebra class has expanded their learning to solving systems of equations and inequalities. We will get ready for the midterm which will be given the last week in January. Mrs. Brisee is available most days after school and in the morning before school begins. Math students who are finding the material challenging should plan to come for extra help.

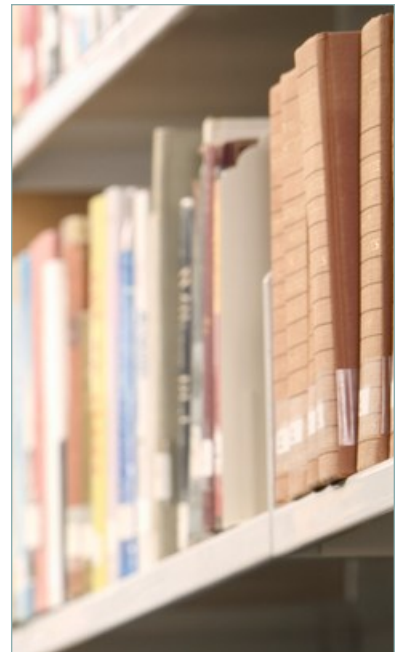


TEAM CORNELL CONTINUED

In Mrs. Schneider's Science class students have demonstrated their knowledge of Newton's 3 laws of motion by creating their own poster, PowerPoint, video, or book and designing a workable balloon car that traveled hopefully 5 meters. We move on to gravity and mass in the Solar System next. Questions? email Mrs. Schneider at b21vschn@mpspride.org SCIENCE RULES!

Students in Mr. Bebyn's Social Studies classes have been working with our student teacher, Mr. K., in looking at the backgrounds of the American Revolution. While studying this part of American history that gave birth to our country, students have been working on their writing skills. Students are learning what are known as Mr. K's rules of writing. These rules are not only to be used while studying American History, but can be applied to all other academic areas as well and will help prepare students for high school and beyond! Ask your children about "Da Roolze".

Team Cornell has Homework Club three times a week. Calendars are posted in all teachers' classrooms. Students can earn a 10 point bonus coupon for attending! Please encourage your child to stay to get work done. Please also remind your student to utilize their planner. They should be writing down their assignments every day and for each period. This is an important tool that will help them stay organized. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with the team teachers, you may contact Mrs. Gohla at b21knich@mpspride.org or call 860-647-3400.





TEAM SYRACUSE

Happy New Year to all from Team Syracuse!

The excitement of the second half of grade 8 is just beginning for us and for our students. Very soon, we will be visiting Manchester High School to hear about elective options for each student, recommending academic levels for high school classes, and planning end-of-the-year activities. School activities are running at full speed, with Syracuse students involved in both girls' and boys' basketball, wrestling, Invention Convention, Science Club, Family and Consumer Sciences Club, Latin Dance, Science Bowl, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, and Poetry Club, just to name a few. Chromebooks are now an integral part of our team, with all teachers running Google Classrooms that students can sign on to from home using their school log-in information. A significant percentage of assignments are now completed electronically and graded the same way, and we are all learning new ways to integrate technology into our lives every day.

With the start of 2015, the teachers and staff of Team Syracuse are making a resolution to empower our students to be prepared for the next chapter of their lives at the high school level. Please support them by helping them to be equipped for school. This means that they **MUST HAVE WRITING UTENSILS**. Both pens and pencils are important to have every day. Every student must have a planner. If your child has lost his or hers, please contact the guidance office to get them a new one. The same goes for school IDs. Each student must have an ID. New IDs can be purchased in the office for \$5.00.

As always, we continue to strive for academic excellence. Please encourage students to complete homework and projects every night. Homework Club continues to be offered every Monday and Thursday from 2:55-3:55 with no advance notice needed. To be eligible for a bus pass, each student must report to the club immediately after dismissal. Late arrivals will not be allowed entry.

Every teacher is available by telephone (860-647-3400) or through email at any time. We love to hear from you, so feel free to contact us with your questions or comments.

We wish you peace and warmth in 2015.

Ms. Marciniak, Mr. Burkhardt, Mr. Lang, Mrs. Gay, Mr. Pohl, Mrs. Harlow, and Ms. Bedlack

TEAM TUFTS



Team Tufts would like to give a big “thank you” to all the parents who were able to participate in our conference experience in November. We look forward to seeing you again in March to share in your student’s success.

Team Tufts geographers had a great time earning bonus points, homework passes, and other treats playing Chinese Bingo. We may also have learned the Chinese numeral characters one through fifty in a fun and painless way.

Students continue to learn about the diversity of the African continent and the challenges its people must face. We will discuss Africa’s history, current economic and political climate, and the impact of geography on such a vast continent. Students will use their knowledge to determine if colonialism has had a positive or negative effect on Africa.

Prepare yourselves, students will be coming home shortly practicing their interviewing skills again as they survey you on your feelings about China and the Chinese Zodiac. This is the Year of the Horse!

We wish a Happy New Year to all our Team Tufts families. All of us look forward to the new year with hopes of success for each and every one of your sons and daughters. Please remember to keep lines of communication open between home and school. Encourage your children to continue using their planners. We appreciate everything you do for our students. Thank you again for your support.

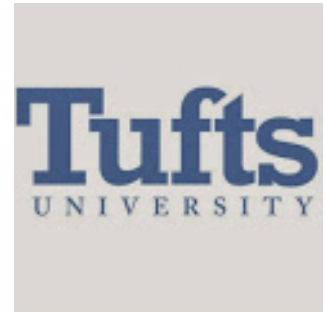
December/January Newsletter

Mrs. Bombria’s reading and language arts classes have been very busy! Classes have been working on their SIR books and individualized reading goals and strategies for reading comprehension and increasing our writing skills. All the students are becoming more confident in their figurative language skills. Students have been enjoying and using text to appreciate elements of literature, the use of figurative language and summarizing. Students have been assessing actions of the characters and sharing insights, as well as supporting evidence, to convince their classmates of their opinions. We have seen much success throughout the on-going practice.

(Reminder, all students are required to read a minimum of 20++++ minutes/monthly average goals - **every** night.)

The Family History Museum interviews are being conducted and we will be moving forward to details and elaboration to make their interviews into paragraph and story format. They should reflect on family, family stories, traditions, and family artifacts (cherished memories). Over the holidays is a perfect time to chat with family about family, culture, and traditions. Have fun reminiscing and sharing your past with your children. Please encourage your child to continue to inquire about family and traditions / complete the 10 interview questions. These will be used in our on-going research for the Family History Museum project.

TEAM TUFTS CON'T



Student I.D.'s are required to be worn everyday. We suggest that your son/daughter keep their I.D. in a safe place after school each day, which may include his/her backpack, binder, or lunchbox. Practicing routines and responsibility is a great habit!

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!!

Thank you for sharing your child with me. It is a joy to share my days with them and to watch them grow and discover their world around them.

In October, **Ms. Gill's** Language Arts class on Team Tufts continued their study of the author's craft by examining Mildred Taylor's "The Song of the Trees." Students defined the elements of a story and then charted the plotlines of several short stories on plot graphs. In the latter half of the month, student writers finished their memoirs of the first day of middle school and created an "I Am..." format poem. In November and December, the students will be exploring the figurative language used in poetry while increasing their knowledge of informational texts during a unit about *The Acorn People*, Ron Jones' classic novel about the challenges differently-abled children face together as they attend summer camp. Students create graphic organizers highlighting characters in the text, draw comparisons using Venn diagrams, and answer rigorous questions about character development and plot structure. Students will also be reading non-fiction articles concerning subjects introduced in the text, furthering both their familiarity with informational texts and their awareness of the diverse challenges their peers often face.

Team Tufts scientists have been continuing their use of measurement skills as they have been solving problems in the area of energy. The essential question they are focusing on is "What is the role of energy in our world?" Our topic has also focused on the scientific definition of work and power, and how we can make work easier by using simple and compound machines. They are also studying how science and technology affect the quality of our lives.

Don't forget to check out Mr. Watson's School Notes page by searching for Mr. Watson's Schoolnotes. Parents can access Mr. Watson's email [here](#), check out what's for homework, learn when the next quiz is, and look at some cool websites. Look for news on the upcoming Boston Museum of Science field trip [here](#), too.

Science is everywhere!

In Math we have started our unit in Geometry. Students will be learning and discovering the area of 2D shapes. They will also be solving real world problems that involve finding the surface area and volume of 3D shapes. The Pre-Algebra class is working on discovering and applying the pythagorean theorem to solve problems. This unit is very short and will lead to the Geometry unit. Students will continued to work on their multiplication and division facts on Madd Minute Mondays. Data is being collecting each week on their progress. After-school help is available on Mondays if needed. Math surrounds us!

TEAM YALE



Hello TEAM YALE FAMILY!!!! How are you? I hope all is well and you are smiling wide! We have been learning a lot in language arts and it has been a blast working with your children. Students recently concluded their short story unit and we have begun studying craft and structure. Within this new unit we plan on analyzing the devices writers use to make their writing awesome! We are currently reading novel titled Bronx Masquerade and studying figurative language. As we move forward, we will analyze craft in structure in various forms of poetry and will even create and write our own poems applying all that we learn about figurative language and craft and structure!

Peace. Love. Parker

7th grade has learned about Simple Machines. They are working on a Rube Goldberg-type contraption. Rube Goldberg was a cartoonist and inventor known for creating machines to complete a simple task in a complex manner using the various simple machines.

8th grade is learning about Motion (speed, velocity and acceleration). The recently finished a lab using wind-up toys. The toys raced, but the winner could not be determined until the calculation of $\text{speed} = \text{distance} / \text{time}$ was computed, as both distance and time varied for each toy.

In Mr. Diaz's 7th grade English Language Arts classes, students are currently in the midst of Unit 2: Analyzing Craft and Structure. They are reading and analyzing a variety of poetry. They will soon be creating their own original poems employing the use of poetic elements and devices.

In Mr. Diaz's 8th grade English Language Arts class, students are currently immersed in Unit 2: Analyzing Craft and Structure. They are reading and analyzing a variety of poetry with special attention being given to spoken word poetry. There will also be a special emphasis on figurative language throughout the unit.

Currently in math, 7th grade students are currently learning about the different types of triangles and how to classify by lines and angles. We will be continuing our geometry unit through winter break. In 8th grade, students just finished a unit on the Pythagorean Theorem and are currently working on solving linear equations to prepare them for the concept of slope.

In Mr. Vickers' 8th grade social studies class, we have just completed studying one of the most important documents in American history: the Declaration of Independence. We are starting our study of the revolutionary war paying close attention to what it would have been like to have been soldier in the American army.

In Mr. Vickers' 7th grade social studies classes, we are studying Africa. We have been looking at Africa's distinctive physical features and now students are using their chrome books to research individual African countries.

TEAM DARTMOUTH



A big thank you to parents and guardians who participated in the November conferences and our Team Dartmouth Town Meeting celebrating honor roll recipients. Keeping lines of communication open and flowing is a powerful contributor to a successful school experience. Please check the planner regularly and see what's going on in your child's classes. Also, feel free to communicate with us through notes in the planner, via e-mail (using the staff directory on the Iling Middle School website), or by phone through the main office. Our team of teachers are: Mrs. Avakian, Team Leader and Social Studies; Mr. Schardt, Science; Ms. Kalt, Language Arts; Ms. Nobilio, Language Arts; Mrs. Martindale, Math; and Ms. DiLeonardo, Special Education /Collaborating teacher. The after school homework club has started and is on Thursdays from 2:45-3:45. The after school busses are available for students who do not walk home. All teachers are also available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday by pre-arranged appointment. Daily independent reading (SSR and at home) continues to be a critical piece. Reading is an on-going assignment which includes bringing an appropriate young adult novel to school every day and reading 20-30 minutes each night. Please continue to send your child to school ready to learn.

Mrs. Avakian reports: In Social Studies we will be having a highly competitive preliminary round of competition to qualify for the National Geographic Bee. Our finalist will go on to compete in the school wide competition! The National Geographic website has new practice questions everyday. Check it out at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/quiz/today. We continue to incorporate our geography skills as we explore the culture, governments, and history of Africa. I invite anyone who has firsthand experiences connected with Africa to consider contacting me about sharing those experiences with the students. In January, we will also be celebrating and learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. Shortly thereafter, we will begin our unit on China in which we will include current events work.

Mrs. Kalt and Mrs. Nobilio report: Holidays and vacations are great times to share some family history and stories of days gone by. These are also good times to remember how fortunate we are and to be thankful for what we have. Argument (formerly persuasive) writing is an important part of our seventh grade language arts curriculum; what better way to help your children learn this important skill than by having them write their requests to you along with their reasons. As we continue to focus on reading comprehension and argument writing, students should be reading a challenging novel of their choice for 30 minutes every night.

Wow! How time flies around here. Winter has arrived but that does not mean it is time to stay inside and wait for warmer weather. Get your children outside to embrace the colder weather. Bundle them up warm and get them out there. The Iling Ski and Snowboarding club kicks off their season right after the holiday break.

Dartmouth students have been studying levers, inclined planes, screws, wedges, wheel and axles, and pulleys. Shortly, we will be shifting gears and take a course of study of the human body. Science rocks! It is essential that you as parents take an active interest in what they learn, and encourage them each day to try their very best. Perseverance in their learning earns high grades and happier children. Enjoy the upcoming holidays!

TEAM UCONN



Team UCONN has many wonderful events happening in the near future. On Friday, December 5, we are taking a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in New York City. The following week we are having a town meeting to recognize those students who made honor roll during the first quarter. Also, we recently had a team building day planned, but will need to reschedule due to the weather. In addition to these events, each teacher has new units and opportunities for all students. In Math, students are learning how to solve one and two-step equations, along with using distribution to help solve multi-step equations. For December, Ms. Nunez's Science classes are studying the unit on Earth & Space. We will focus on how the position of the Earth in the solar system affects conditions here on our planet and how this makes and dictates the tides and seasons we experience, and also what orbital velocity is and how it affects the Earth and Solar System. Right now in Ms. Cocola's class we are working on our poetry unit. Students are learning the elements of figurative language, writing and analyzing poems. In Mr. Kienle's class, students will begin their study of figurative language and poetry. Remember, we will begin our study of the Holocaust after the winter recess. If any parents have concerns I should know about, please do not hesitate to contact me here at Illing. Social Studies classes on Team UCONN continue their exploration of the American Revolution. Social Studies classes will complete the American Revolution and review the formation of America's first attempts at government ending with the creation of the United States Constitution.



TEAM DARTMOUTH CON'T

In math we are beginning our longest unit of the year. Our 2D and 3D geometry unit will last us almost through the winter! It encompasses lines, angles, triangle, and circles with area and perimeter. The second half focuses on surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures. Get ready to use and apply equations. In pre-algebra, we have a pair of short units coming up. We are learning about the Pythagorean Theorem and how to apply it to real world situations. Following that, we are going deep into ratios, proportions, and percentages. So next time you eat dinner out, ask your student to calculate the tip! Remind your students to keep up with their nightly homework because you will be seeing it regularly again. The math department has adopted a new retake policy on unit tests. Any student can retake a unit test if they score lower than 75%. Both the retake and the original will be averaged for a replacement grade; however, the replacement grade cannot be higher than 75%.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT



The Illing Music Department has many events to share with families.

On November 8, student musicians traveled to Johnston Middle School in Colchester. Congratulations to those students who auditioned: Drew Nielsen, Kate Hwang, Kate Shaw-Mumford, Vivian Hudson, Alyssa Saynganthone, Megan Kievman, John Slogesky, Elena Bachmann, Vanessa Hudson, and Sharlene Benitez. The music these students prepared was at a very high level, and they represented themselves and Illing Middle School with tremendous composure. We are very proud of their hard work and willingness to challenge themselves. Congratulations to Emily Christensen, Katherine Miner, and Sarah Turley for their acceptance into the All-Eastern Region Music Festival. They will be preparing Concert Band and Orchestral music for a weekend festival in March with student musicians from all over the eastern region of Connecticut.

MUSIC CON'T

Concert season is upon us.

Congratulations to all of the Illing Choirs, Bands, and Orchestra
on fantastic performances at the

Winter Concerts on December 4 and December 9!

Thank you to parents as well - for all of your support to make us successful!

Here are some future upcoming music dates. Take note!

All-Eastern Region Festival March 6 and 7 at Rockville High School

March 20 Boys Choir, Girls'Choir and Illing Singers perform at the Wolfpack Game. 5:30 in the Atrium, 7:00 pm on the ice.

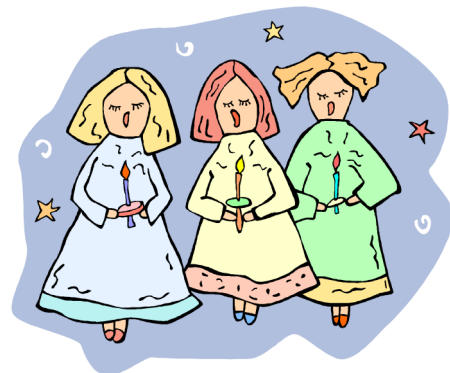
The music department would also like to offer a very special note of thanks to Ms. Denise Kish, our interim Orchestra Director. She has worked tirelessly with our string students since the start of the school year. We thank her and wish her well as we welcome back Ms. Sica-Leonard in January.

~May 14— Illing Spring Concert

~May 22— 8th Grade Choir and Illing Singers perform at the Great East Festival (and then spend the day at 6 Flags Park)

~May 29— Boys Choir, Girls'Choir and Illing Singers tour Boston

~June TBA—Boys Choir, Girls Choir and Illing Singers perform at elementary schools!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Students pictured above were on a field trip to the Science Center

George Asiedu

George Asiedu has a smile that brightens every day. He exemplifies STARS behavior by being kind to all, going out of his way to help both classmates and teachers. Whenever a volunteer is needed, George is the first to respond. George quietly and respectfully moves through each day, holding doors, assisting others, and pleasantly greeting everyone in his path. Academically, George puts forth his best effort every day. George's drive and attitude will take him far!

Mayesha Choudhury

This student is being nominated for student of the month recognition because she regularly displays ALL of the STARS attributes. Mayesha Choudhury is a scholar in Music Survey. As a two-year Music Survey student, she regularly makes appointments for after school extra help. This year she has taken full advantage of the Illing Conservatory, taking a particular interest in developing her guitar skills. She researches on line songs from both her culture and areas of interest, bringing what she does not know to her after school sessions. Mayesha's willingness to truthfully express what she does not understand expands her skill base on the instrument as well as music

OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH CON'T

Mayesha Choudhury (con't)

literacy. Mayesha interacts with adults and peers in a caring manner. Mayesha is aware of struggling students and is always willing to help, whether it is by translating for our English learners, or moving stands and chairs to set the musical space. She is respectful in all her interactions with adults and peers and shows patience for a lesson that may move slower than her ability. She follows school rules not because she is fearful of consequences, but because she has built relationships with staff and peers and cares about the school climate of Illing Middle School. She embraces her gifts as a role model and leader. Always smiling, always friendly, always a determined hard worker, Mayesha Choudhury exemplifies all of the qualities of an Illing Middle School STAR!

Brandon Efanayi

Brandon is Team Tufts' student of the month for October. Brandon is an exemplary scholar, earning high marks in all his classes. He is often found devouring good books. He is kind and helpful to other students on team and to his teachers, and he possesses a quick wit. Brandon participates in the Illing Robotics Club. For his respectful nature, good humor, kind demeanor, love of reading, and impressive academic abilities, Brandon is our student of the month!

Korey Franklin

Korey is an all around dynamite student who exhibits all of the qualities that make him an Illing S.T.A.R.!!! From the start of the year to now, Korey has consistently been an industrious scholar and has been truthful, aware, respectful and safe. In class, Korey is a quiet leader who leads through action and example rather than with talk. In addition to his academic prowess, Korey is simply a good person and an all around kind young man! For his citizenship, academic efforts, consistency and overall great spirit, Team Yale proudly nominates Korey Franklin for October's Student of the Month!

Albert Garcia

Albert is Team Uconn's student of the month for October. Albert is a wonderful student and person. He always exhibits the STARS ideals both in and outside of the classroom. He is a conscientious student, always completing his class work and homework. Albert is also a role model for others, always doing the right thing.

Caitlyn Hoagland

With the start of the year, it has been easy to recognize Caitlyn Hoagland as Team Princeton's Student of the Month. While there are many outstanding students on Team Princeton, our selection of Caitlyn sets the bar high. She is emblematic of those characteristics required to be a STARS student. In all subject areas her work exceeds expectations. She is the model of integrity and demonstrates awareness academically and personally. In her day-to-day interactions with staff and students alike, Caitlyn's easy going attitude makes her a joy in the classroom, where she readily accepts everyone and all challenges without complaint. Since day one, she has been prepared for success in the classroom and life. As said before, there are many students we could recognize, but Caitlyn is exceptional.

OCTOBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Noor Majid

Noor Majid is Team Central's student of the month. She epitomizes what it means to be an upstanding Iling student. She is always present and prepared to begin the school day with a bright smile on her face. Her extracurricular activities include a myriad of endeavors. She enjoys Enrichment class with Mr. Lee. She had an awesome time on the bird banding field trip with the IMS Science Club. She is also in the Drama Club where she is a student leader. Her responsibilities include handling the money and advertisement. Outside of school, she engages in archery, lacrosse and tennis. She is working very hard this school year and is having a blast. Keep up the great work, Noor. Team Central is honored to have you on our team.

Khari Montague

Cornell's October student of the month is Khari Montague. Khari goes above and beyond in her school work. She follows all directions and stays on task when working in the classroom. She is attentive, kind and a role model to her peers. Khari has a gentle, quiet way about her, yet she is spunky and her smile lights up the room. Team Cornell is lucky to have Khari!

Eric Ortiz

Dartmouth is proud to have Eric Ortiz as our student of the month! Eric is a hard-working, dedicated student. In school he loves math and excels in his pre-algebra class. He also enjoys playing the violin and works diligently in orchestra. This year he is breaking out of his shell by participating in the drama club—look for him on the stage or behind the scenes! Eric is respectful to everyone and kind to his peers. He is always ready to lend a helping hand to a teacher or fellow student. Eric is truly a student that lives the STARS!

Austin Palmer

URI would like to nominate Austin Palmer as student of the month. Austin is a conscientious student. He is the top participator in many of his classes. He helps his peers and is always willing to lend a helping hand for adults. In addition, he is part of the student council and participated in the can and bottle drive. URI is lucky to have Austin as part of our team.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The students in Media Production are currently working on writing a hard news and soft news article. Once they are finished writing, they must transform one of those articles into a video news segment. After a discussion on media ethics and the role of journalism in society, students will craft a professional news piece that would be suitable for broadcast.

The next unit will focus on comprehensive marketing campaigns, where students will work in teams to create television and radio commercials, as well as an assortment of print advertisements and collateral. All of the pieces must have a similar message directed at a specific target audience.

IS NEXT MONTH YOUR TURN TO BE STUDENT OF THE MONTH?

Become a STAR

S—Scholar—*is prepared / works hard / follows direction*



T—Truthful—*practices honesty / respects others' possessions*

A—Aware—*uses an indoor voice / kind & caring words / keeps hands & feet to him or herself*

R—Respectful—*makes good decisions when responding to adults / treats all property with respect / uses appropriate language*

S—Safe—*behaves appropriately / walks quietly in the halls / follows the bus rules at all times / follows all the posted rules for inside & outside of the building*



NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Alyssa Fowler

Alyssa is one of the hardest working and most focused students on Team Syracuse. Even at those moments when the class may get loud and others tend to go off task, she remains a quiet constant among her peers. She maintains a near-perfect average in almost all of her classes, and can be counted on to put her best effort into all of her work.

Ilayza Galindez

Ilayza is one of the most hard-working, self-disciplined, respectful, and conscientious students we have had. She does outstanding academically in all of her classes, is usually one of the first students done with her class work, always has her homework completed on time, and helps others if they need it when she is done with her assignments, is always respectful to her teachers and peers, and has a positive attitude towards learning and life in general. She is a role model student who always does the right thing and is determined to be successful at everything she does. She absolutely demonstrates Princeton Pride and we are honored to have her as a part of this team.

Vivian Hudson

Vivian regularly displays all of the STARS attributes. Vivian is a scholar in orchestra and consistently tries to do her best. Vivian is a talented cellist who is always willing to help other students who need extra help. She is aware of how to interact with others in a caring manner, and has developed a great relationship with both the staff and her peers. Vivian has shown respect for others and shows patience for other students that are developing their skills. Vivian has also been a part of the Illing Conservatory, where she would perform and practice with other students. Outside the music classroom, Vivian worked extremely hard to prepare for the Eastern Regional auditions, where she represented Illing Middle School proudly. Vivian is also respectful of rules and safety, because she cares about her school and others around her. Her positive attitude, hard work, and kindness to others has shown that Vivian demonstrates all the qualities of an Illing Middle School STAR!

Keiaura Irving

Keiaura is a hard-working, conscientious student. She is respectful to adults and well respected by her peers. Keiaura exemplifies STARS and is a true pleasure to have on Team URI.

Nathan Keegan

Nathan is always prepared for his classes and comes to school with a great desire to learn every day. He is helpful to his peers and is very kind to them as well. Nathan is a responsible student who can be relied upon to deliver quality work and serve as a respectable role model for his classmates. He is beloved by his teachers and peers alike. Team Yale couldn't be prouder!

NOVEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

CONTINUED

Ting-Ting Lin

Ting-Ting is a tireless worker. She goes above and beyond in all that she does. In addition to her academic success, Ting-Ting is also one of the kindest and most helpful students. She can frequently be seen assisting other classmates when she has completed her own work. She is a huge help to our ELL students and acts as another teacher in the classroom. Ting-Ting is involved in school activities and groups such as the choir and in Young Women's Leadership Group. She is an asset to Illing and Team Cornell is so proud of her!

Kristyan Martinez

Kristyan is an outstanding student. He excels in every class, always putting forth maximum effort. He participates fully during lessons and enriches the classes with his comments and insight. Outside of the classroom, Kristyan is a positive role model for other students. He is polite, respectful and a true STAR. He is Team UCONN's student of the month.

Ayoub Merzougui

Ayoub epitomizes what it means to be a model student, as he loves to help others. He is always respectful and takes pride in his academics. He is a scholar in math, which is his favorite subject, along with being a member of the Illing Science Club. His extracurricular activities include a myriad of endeavors. He enjoys playing soccer and basketball with his friends. He even finds time to practice karate and running. Keep up the great work, Ayoub, you are truly an Illing STAR student and Team Central's November student of the month!

Samantha Minor

Samantha's favorite subjects are language arts and social studies. Samantha especially enjoys writing, and in social studies she especially enjoys learning about different cultures around the world. She just joined ski club and will be trying out snowboarding for the first time! As a member of orchestra, she has played the violin since the 4th grade. A Manchester Road Race rookie, she reports it was an insane experience but a great event, especially since she competed as a cross country runner with the Illing team this year. Her favorite hobbies are reading fictional fantasy books, playing violin, and freewriting. Her words of wisdom are school is good for a good future. Congratulations to Samantha Minor, Team Dartmouth's student of the month.

Jenna Waggoner

Jenna is a great example and model of a scholarly student. She is a very hard working and enthusiastic student who takes part in her learning. She is a great team player and willing to help her peers. Jenna is full of energy and always eager to participate. She is Team Tufts student of the month.

**ILLING MIDDLE
SCHOOL PTA**

PTA BOARD:

President—Jack Crockwell

Vice Pres—Sara Cleveland

Treasurer—Andy Kidd

Secretary—Richard Walsh

Membership—Mary Klotzer

MEETING DATES:

Wednesday—Feb 18, 2015

Wednesday—May 20, 2015

MEETINGS ARE HELD

IN THE

ILLING CAFETERIA

FROM

7:00 pm TO 8:00 pm

PTA NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Illing Middle School PTA is off to a great start this school year. Thanks for your support of the Mixed Bag fundraiser and the Dairy Queen Dine Out Night. Enjoy your Holiday and have a Happy New Year!

Membership

We have recently surpassed 150 members – Thank you!

Become part of the PTA voice. Joining PTA does not obligate you to volunteer or attend meetings. By joining, you will support Illing Middle School, receive information by e-mail on upcoming events and a monthly summary of the PTA meeting discussion. You will stay informed and involved.

The cost is just \$7 for membership for one adult for the entire school year & \$12 for 2 adults (dads please join!). Students are welcome to join for just \$6.

CONTACT US

Email the PTSA Board at IllingMiddleSchoolPTSA@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllingMiddleSchoolPta>

Visit the Illing Middle School Web Site: <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=612>



COACHES CORNER

P. LePaige, D. Maguire, C. Millette

Are you looking for a good book for your child to read over winter break?

Each year, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), presents the Best Fiction for Young Adults list. This year's list of 98 books was drawn from 175 official nominations. The books, recommended for ages 12-18, meet the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading for teens. The list is comprised of a wide range of genres and styles. It includes everything from contemporary realistic fiction, to fantasy, horror, and science fiction. The entire list can be viewed by visiting the American Library Association (ALA) website at the following address: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2014-best-fiction-young-adults>

The committee for Best Fiction for Young Adults also put together a top ten list, which is denoted by an asterisk near the title of the book. Here are the Top Five from the list:

- **Berry, Julie.** *All the Truth That's in Me.* Penguin/Viking Juvenile, 2013.
- **Clark, Kristin Elizabeth.** *Freakboy.* Macmillan/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2013.
- **Federle, Tim.** *Better Nate Than Ever.* Simon & Schuster/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2013.
- **McNeal, Tom.** *Far Far Away.* Random House/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2013.
- **Rowell, Rainbow.** *Eleanor & Park.* Macmillan/St. Martin's Griffin, 2013.

Remember, there is nothing like curling up with a good book on a vacation day!

How about some fun with MATH over the break?

• **Make math fun.** Spend some time with kids on board games, puzzles, and activities that encourage positive attitudes and stronger math skills.

• **Mix in math.** The kitchen is filled with tasty opportunities to teach fractions! Use measurements while doubling and dividing cookie recipes.

• **Use real world examples to teach math.** Point out ways we use math every day! Show kids how you pay bills, balance your check-books, make change, and tip at restaurants.

• **Encourage children to solve problems.** Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. Problem solving is a lifetime skill!

